

THE SATURDAY REVIEW

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SIXPENCE

OPPOSITION CRITICISMS of Lord Halifax's appointment as Foreign Secretary proved their emptiness in the House of Commons debate. There is absolutely no reply to Mr. Chamberlain's argument that the country must not be deprived of the services of the man best fitted to fill this office, merely because he sits in the House of Lords. Opposition M.P.s are inclined to take themselves too seriously and an examination of the questions with which they plied Mr. Eden throws an alarming light on their knowledge of foreign affairs. Foreign policy is too important since it involves peace and war, life and death, to be lightly bandied about by irresponsible politicians intent only on scoring a point for their side or attaining notoriety. There is nothing in the present House of Commons to suggest that it is so far superior to its predecessors that it deserves the special privilege of indulging, to use Mr. Churchill's words, in "an unending stream of derogatory pinpricks" on matters that are vital to our existence. "The less a Foreign Secretary spoke, the more he said." This aphorism of Mr. Churchill recalled the great days of British foreign policy and there is every reason to be glad that our present Foreign Secretary will sit in that other place where he will be given time to devote his attention to the business of his office without wasting energy in answering foolish and dangerous questions.

THE TRINIDAD DEBATE in the House of Commons cannot be said to have been particularly illuminating—except in regard to the special points of view of the various speakers. The trouble was, of course, that to most of the debaters the Commission's Report was like the proverbial Curate's egg: good in parts. Each speaker wished to dwell on the parts of which he approved and ignore the rest. And there was the further difficulty that the case of the Trinidad Gandhi, Mr. Uriah Butler, is still in a sense *sub judice*, since there is some likelihood of an appeal against the verdict of the local Appellate Court. This was peculiarly annoying to Mr. Maxton, for example, since it was a question how far the transports of praise he wished to indulge in concerning the activities of this gentleman would be in order. Perhaps the main impression to be gathered from the debate and an impartial consideration both of the Commission's Report and of the state of affairs revealed by it and recent happenings in Barbados and other West Indian Islands is that for many years past this portion of our Colonial Empire has suffered from the lack of a clearly-defined, consistent policy. For this neglect Parliament and the Colonial Office are even more to blame than the local administration, which naturally enough regards itself as the agent of Westminster and Whitehall. The present Colonial Secretary, in his speech during the Commons' debate, gave evidence

of a refreshing change of attitude in his Department. He outlined the steps that were to be taken without delay to remove the main evils disclosed by the Commission's Report. If this new-found zeal is to continue to operate in Whitehall, the results are likely to be beneficial to other West Indian Islands no less than to Trinidad.

SIR MURCHISON FLETCHER, the former Governor of Trinidad, has, one is inclined to think, a legitimate grievance in that he was not given a chance of seeing the Commission's Report before it appeared and that his subsequently submitted memorandum to the Secretary of State was withheld from publication. It may not have been thought necessary to submit this memorandum, as Sir Murchison asked, to some independent body or person for examination. That might have been considered to be a reflection on the Minister's ability to form a correct judgment on the document. But when a Governor has been severely censured in an officially published report he ought to have every opportunity given him for publicly stating his own case. And no Government ought to refuse him the same facilities as have been accorded to the document that condemns him. Mr. Ormsby-Gore's defence of his own attitude on this point is exceedingly weak. "If," he said, "Sir Murchison Fletcher wishes to publish his criticisms of the Commission he may use his rights as an independent citizen of this country to criticise them and say where and how; but it is not for me to lay before Parliament the complaints of Sir Murchison Fletcher with regard to the Commission." If a Minister lays a document, gravely reflecting on the conduct of a Governor, before Parliament, his sense of justice should compel him to table also the Governor's comments on that document. To expect that Governor to court his own publicity at his own expense and "as an independent citizen," is to establish an exceedingly bad precedent. No privately printed document can be expected to receive quite the same attention either from Parliament or the public as a Government-published report. That is one point against Mr. Ormsby-Gore's argument. Another is the natural reluctance of a retired official to take part in propaganda. We hold no brief for Sir Murchison. His condemnation by the Commission may have been perfectly just. But he had certainly the right to the same publicity as the Commission which criticised him.

ANOTHER COMMISSION, this time a "fact-finding" one, will be journeying out to Palestine to start on its work of "discovery" after Easter. No fault can be found with the three appointments so far made to it: the Chairman is a distinguished Indian Civilian, another member is an ex-Colonial Chief Justice, and the third is

an able Treasury official who is doubtless there to see that the "facts" found do not entail unnecessary expenditure of British funds. Printing House Square would like to see added to the Commission "an officer conversant with the military and political issues involved in the division of Palestine into two potentially jealous States and a British Mandatory area." We agree, if by "military issues" are also to be understood the strategic interests of the Empire involved in the suggested "Partition." *The Times*, in its comments on this Commission, appears to think there is some ground for the suspicion that Whitehall "is playing for time before taking a definite decision on the question of Partition." The recent Colonial Office Despatch to the High Commissioner of Palestine certainly suggested that Whitehall had no very clear ideas on the subject. So there is still reason to entertain the fervent hope that "facts" will be found by the new Commission to show that Partition would be not only the worst possible solution for the troubles of Palestine but also fatal for the Empire's vital strategic interests.

GABRIELE D'ANNUNZIO is dead. Gabriel of the Annunciation was the name he chose for himself with a youth's unerring fore-knowledge of the part he was to play. It is alarming to observe the sentence in *The Times'* obituary notice that Gabriele D'Annunzio "seems to have been his real name," for there must have been scores of Englishmen who knew his son Gabriellino and everyone of them must have known that the real name of this startling creature who plunged into drab modernity with the colour and swagger of the Cinquecento was Gaetano Rapagnetta. It was amazing that the peasant boy should have known at once the part he was to play in the history of Italy. Neither in prose nor in verse nor in the drama, was he capable of creating a masterpiece of enduring merit, but he possessed that strange and rare gift of the creator of language. "L'Imaginifico" was the epithet he applied to himself in "Il Fuoco." The lord of imagination and images, but in very truth it was the lordship of words that made him great. He came into the 20th Century straight out of the Renaissance. At the beginning of this century, the writer fought with the youth of Florence as fiercely as ever the Romantic movement was contested in Paris as to whether the flood of new words D'Annunzio was introducing into the language could reasonably be regarded as Italian or not. Battles were fought about these rich and abundant derivations from the classics in those happier days when words seemed to be as they always must be more important than money. D'Annunzio has won all along the line since to-day all his adaptations of the wealth of classic language have become part and parcel of the spoken speech. The Italian dictionary has become infinitely fatter and more fertile since the days when Manzoni's "I Promessi Sposi" was supposed to comprise all really good Italian words.

LORD OF LANGUAGE was D'Annunzio. His morals were those of a Renaissance despot and his treatment of Eleanora Duse, a genius far greater than his own, would have pro-

vided him with an exceptionally unpleasant abode in Dante's hell. He wrote "Il Fuoco," to describe the conclusion of his liaison with that ideal of womanhood. He was utterly in debt as he always was and she paid him her savings on condition that the book should not be published. He took her money and published the book. Yet to-day, if one turns to the Foscarina in that book, one is bound to say that it is the one memorial of that marvellous and adorable genius. Later his debts were such that it was hopeless for him to publish either book or play in Italian. His royalties would have been seized immediately. So he sat down and wrote in mediæval French "Le Martyre de Saint Sébastien." It stands as one of the most amazing *tours-de-force* ever perpetrated. D'Annunzio talked French with the most barbarous of accents, but he was able to throw himself back into the Middle Ages so effectively that only two or three errors were noted in the language he used by all the expert sleuths of the French Universities, who were furious that a foreigner should make free with the language of which they were specialists. If the Duse looks down on these earthly things, she must be pleased to think that the genius who treated her less kindly than Malatesta of Rimini treated Isotta has left a mark on the world that cannot be erased. He became a man of action and defied death just as he had defied his own physical ugliness, and now at the end no one can ever charge him with cowardice.

EVERYONE HAD HOPED that Mr. Disney's picture "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs" would be finished in time to be shown over here at Christmas, but we have had to wait until last week for its opening night. Mr. Disney and his staff have spent three years on his first full length film, and there were plenty of people who thought that, in departing from his short cartoons and silly symphonies, he had made a major mistake. In fact, Mr. Disney has not only made no mistake, but he has succeeded beyond the hopes of his admirers of whom the writer is one. Here is a magnificent picture, which has no parallel, and will not have one, unless Mr. Disney himself provides a successor. There is humour here in plenty, pathos and entertainment, but what is chiefly remarkable is the unity of design. The story of the original fairy tale has been faithfully followed and, though there are over two million separate drawings and a staff of over five hundred to assemble them, the finished product appears to be the work of Mr. Disney alone. There has been some discussion about the Board of Censors withholding the U certificate and it is conceivable that children under nine might be upset, but parents need have no fears for their older offspring.

AT the Aldwych Theatre, *Housemaster*, by Ian Hay, is still playing to large audiences. In spite of its long run, the players have lost none of their freshness. J. H. Roberts in the name part is superb,

Leading Articles

STALIN DICTATOR

"PANEM et circenses" was the cry of the Roman proletariat and their rulers kept them quiet with doles of corn and gladiatorial shows. The dictator of the Russian proletariat cannot afford to be so generous in his largess of bread, but nothing could be more lavish than his presentation of the gladiatorial show on a dramatic scale unthought of by the Roman Emperor. Nero and Caligula who really took an interest in amusing their public must be envious of Stalin who entertains his subjects not with the hand-to-hand battles of foreign prisoners or the painful extermination of Christian outcasts, but with the psychological agony inflicted on those who once stood at his right hand and who not so long ago were imposing on others the pains they have now to suffer. It must be mildly consoling to those who have suffered untold things at the hands of OGPU to see the dreaded chief of the Communist Inquisition shivering in anticipation of the unpleasant fate which he has inflicted on so many. Cesare Borgia long ago discovered that it was good policy to use an agent when ruthlessness was needed and when the work was done to be as ruthless to that agent as he had been to others. Nothing is so cheering to the proletariat as to watch its rulers squirming just as their victims squirmed.

Presumably the twenty-one Soviet champions who are standing their trial will all confess to their heinous crimes. They have all been responsible for the death of many good men and true whose only fault was disagreement with the gospel of Lenin, but such murders will be the only thing standing to their credit. They will admit to justify a sentence of death that since 1918 they have been plotting with Germany to overthrow the glorious dictatorship of the proletariat. On bended knees they will swear that they tried to murder Lenin who cannot rise from his grave to accuse them and Stalin who is watching in the background like a boy studying the twitches of a moth skewered with a pin. It must be great fun for Stalin, who knows how those confessions are obtained. A great deal has been written about mysterious drugs which break the victim's will and make him a toy in the hands of his accusers. It would seem simple to suppose that the threat of exquisite pain, the menace of tortures that once the whole world accepted, is the drug employed by the dictator of the proletariat. Those who were his comrades in the glorious Revolution and who knew no mercy have learnt by the time they appear in court that a quick clean death is their only escape from the ingenuity of the tortures of the Soviet. The strongest of them are broken by tortures that leave no trace, and the only consolation is that they

invented those very tortures. It all fits in with the human desire that a man should suffer exactly as others have suffered at his hands. Phalaris of Agrigentum is said to have invented a brazen bull in which his enemies were roasted alive and the human sense of justice has always rejoiced in the thought that he himself was roasted in that self-same bull. In our own days that innate demand for retribution created a legend concerning Dr. Guillotin, the inventor of the guillotine, who, though he died peacefully in his bed, was said to have had his head removed by the instrument of his own creation. It is no wonder that ordinary folk beyond the reach of the OGPU should feel a definite satisfaction at the thought that Yagoda, its former chief, should now be caught in his own net.

The truth of the accusations brought against Yagoda, Rykoff, Lenin's successor, Bukharin, the model of Soviet journalists, Rakovsky the ambassador, the sinister doctors of the Kremlin and the rest seems to be a matter of infinite unimportance. The real charge against them is one of utter incompetence. Efficiency has become a god in Soviet Russia. A collection of men in their position who have been plotting against the life of Stalin for twenty years and have failed to dispatch him to the nothingness that awaits the Bolshevik dead deserve the death penalty a thousand times. It seems that these cunning medical specialists did get rid of one or two important Bolsheviks, among them the consumptive Maxim Gorki, whose life was not one that insurance companies would have chosen. It is perhaps a good thing for the medical profession that it should be reminded that it has a certain responsibility towards its patients and that its final object should not be death according to the rules. Yet one feels that this doctor business is carrying the world back to the Renaissance, when every sudden death was confidently attributed to poison. Presumably Professor Pletnyoff, President of the Moscow Medical Society and a famous specialist in angina pectoris, will not be accused of administering to Gorki some poisonous brew of toads' tongues and adders' feet and herbs plucked from a churchyard at midnight: such deadly concoctions are nowadays expressed in different terms, in scientific jargon.

The mystery of this affair remains: why does the dictator of the proletariat make such a fuss when he is getting rid of people he finds inconvenient? Stalin seems to go out of his way to proclaim to the world the iniquities of those who have so long been held up as the shining lights of the Communist Paradise. Hitler's purges are conducted with more discretion and Mussolini wisely gives no advertisement to the trials of those who oppose his will. Obviously all these excellent Communists might have been put away quietly without any commotion. The effect of a trial in which all the prisoners confess their sins as if they were at a Revival Meeting has been spoiled by repetition. The Russian character is a mystery to the Western mind. Undoubtedly it enjoys an Asiatic despotism such as Stalin has set up, but it is hard to see what fun it finds in introducing a caricature of Western justice into the methods of the Eastern potentate.

The obvious solution would seem to be that the curse of blood-lust has fallen on Stalin as it fell on so many Renaissance princes. Much has been written about this murder madness, a definite pathological symptom, which descended in the past on despots who thought that they had over-passed the limitations of humanity. It is the child of suspicion and fear and strikes always at those to whom the tyrant owes most. In the end the murderer meets the same fate as his victims and it may be that Europe will some day be startled by the trial of Stalin for "eagerly plotting" against the dictatorship of the proletariat. It would be interesting to know what exactly are the feelings of those responsible for the present trial under Stalin. Not so long ago the accused were in their places and before long they too may be in the dock. At any rate one thing seems certain, Soviet Russia is to-day an Asiatic despotism as absolute as any that history records and if the world is to be divided into dictatorships and democracies, it will be on the side of the dictatorships. Hitler has said that a statesman should never antagonise his real enemy. The day may come when Germany and Russia will discover that their ideals are the same.

MOTOR MINDEDNESS

THE Ministry of Transport can reveal that about 300,000 new motorists come on to the British roads every year. Of that vast army, how many will know the real pleasures of motoring; of motoring on roads built to carry modern traffic adequately; of authorities who are motor-minded?

They say that motoring in Eire is the nearest equivalent to driving in pre-war England, when the roads were dusty but free and every run a joy for the enthusiast and motoring just a new game. In Southern Ireland now there is little traffic and the motorist is everyone's friend even to the local bobby who wants a lift. The more the pity that there is open war in England now between the authorities and the motorists. It should not be so, as it is to their mutual disadvantage. Motorists should not be victimised by out of date magistrates who so often are not drivers themselves and sometimes notably antagonistic to the car owner.

Face the facts and one must realise that driving is rather a grim business in this country. It is well-nigh an impossibility not to infringe some technicality of the law on every run. Regular use of a car in London is little cheaper than continual use of taxis after garage and parking fees and tips have been paid, not to speak of obstruction fines.

Then it takes longer and longer to reach the open roads. City exits are too narrow and ribbon building constantly stretches town boundaries; 15 m.p.h. roundabouts check the flow on 80 m.p.h. twin-way cycle-tracked highways. The volume of traffic is greater throughout this country than anywhere in the world except perhaps New York State. No wonder railway receipts are rising and car registrations are falling.

This is the time of national re-arming. A time when every nerve is being strained to make us stronger and well-equipped for any emergency. Money is not being spared in any direction

affecting national defence. Mechanised transport is one of the most vital factors of modern warfare and in an emergency the country would want as many experienced drivers as possible, as many engineers and motor-minded men as would serve the machines of her land, air and sea forces. The motor industry was asked to co-operate directly, in the current defence schemes and duly built a chain of shadow factories now in operation. The Government should also do its part by lending its power to make motoring a great national force.

A bold scheme of motorways and greatly enlarged roads to cope not only with present but future traffic should come first. A reduction in road accidents would be the direct result and an incalculable boost for motoring in the way of propaganda would be the indirect result. On the occasion of national defence the evacuation of large cities and the ease of transport throughout the country would naturally be enhanced.

Second should come this change of attitude. One can think of so many ways—the provision of motorists' courts; thousands more official parking places or council parking garages; the equal direction of legislation to all road users, pedestrian, cyclists and poor motorists alike.

In this country the Minister of Transport is a bold man indeed if he dare drive his own car on the roads which he controls. Mr. Hore Belisha did not. Mr. Leslie Burgin before taking office, was stopped for a speed limit offence. One wonders if he is still taking the risk.

In these circumstances it is a pity that he chooses to sneer in public at motoring conditions in Germany to-day where there is a much more enlightened attitude. A short time ago the Minister paid a visit to Germany and saw their vast road schemes for himself, yet he does not seem impressed nor has there been any immediate effect of the report to him of the delegation of the Parliamentary Road Group. This delegation found unanimously in favour of a system of motorways for Britain after a visit to the autobahnen of Germany.

Now all excuses that Germany can do that sort of thing since it is a totalitarian State with warfare as its one outlook are all very well, but coming down to basic facts we are now in the same position—desperate for re-armament. As a country our one big object at the moment is re-armament. In that case real encouragement to motorists and the motor industry is necessary now as a scheme for the furtherment of national defence since we must be a motor-minded nation to be efficient in war time.

Whatever one's political views, one cannot help being impressed by the directness of purpose of the German policy as revealed at last month's Berlin Show. Herr Hitler himself opened the exhibition with a long speech and care was taken to use the opportunity for every form of motoring propaganda even to the exhibition of any vehicles. At our Earls Court Show no attempt is made to put over general motoring propaganda and racing cars are specifically banned from the exhibition. At the Berlin Show there was a special hall where Germany's record-breaking machines were proudly shown.

GAS IN THE HOME

UNTIL comparatively recent times the use of gas in the home was liable to be associated in the public mind with grimy ceilings, popping burners, obnoxious "fumes," and an endless succession of spent matches. During the last few years, however, the Gas Industry has made astonishing progress. Scientific research in both manufacture and utilisation has placed it in the forefront of British industries, and "Mr. Therm" stands to-day symbolic of up-to-date service to the community.

We are living in an age of colour, and the modern house is apt to make little appeal to the prospective purchaser unless its kitchen is tiled in primrose or green, its bathroom in a delicate shade of pink or blue, and its fireplaces in other hues. Gas appliances can play their part in satisfying this modern demand for colour in the home.

Although 120 years old, the gas industry is not content to rest upon the uncertain foundations of tradition; but it uses that tradition and over a century of practical experience as means to an end—namely, the provision of essential domestic and industrial services which are as modern as the times in which we live. While progress in the field of industrial utilisation has been no less marked, it is the service which gas can render in the home which will, perhaps, make the strongest appeal.

To deal first with the more comprehensive domestic applications, it may be said that for those who desire an entirely automatic and trouble-free means of central heating no better method is available than the thermostatically-controlled gas boiler, which occupies little space in the kitchen or basement, or can be built into a small chamber of its own outside the house. Such apparatus can be adjusted to maintain the whole house at any desired temperature, or it can be fitted with additional refinements like individual room thermostats, or a "variostat," which governs the output of the boiler according to the outside temperature, or with clock control to turn the boiler on and off at any predetermined times. Such controls have successfully been applied, for instance, to the central heating of country houses or cottages whose owners wish to use them only as week-end retreats. The clock control is thus set to bring the plant into operation on, say, Friday morning, so that the house is warmed in time for the arrival of the owner in the evening.

In conjunction with the foregoing system, an automatic hot water supply for domestic use can be arranged by means of a similar boiler. But there are also many other ways of providing gas-heated water at a constant temperature. Gas can claim the unique distinction of being the only practical method at the present time of producing an instantaneous and unlimited supply of hot or boiling water at a turn of the tap. Such appliances can be coupled up to existing solid fuel boiler systems so that a turn of a valve enables gas-heated water to be obtained at all the hot taps in the house. Single-point appliances (they used to be called "geysers" but are now known as

water heaters) are also available for instantaneous hot water for bath, hand-basin, or sink, while storage heaters meet the requirements of other households. Another useful type of heater is the little circulator, which is fixed to the flow and return pipes of an existing solid fuel system; this can either take care of the water heating alone or help to "boost" up the boiler if a quick supply of hot water is needed.

Little need be said on the subject of gas fires and cookers, for their use is rapidly becoming universal where speed, economy, and efficiency are desired. But, in addition to these advantages, attractive appearance and automaticity are added features of the latest appliances. There is practically no colour in which gas fires cannot be obtained, while cookers, too, are available in a number of pleasing enamel finishes. The modern gas fire lights itself at a turn of the tap; the hot-plate burners on the gas cooker are similarly ignited without the use of matches—either the operation of the tap lights the gas or else a separate lighting device is attached. The latest type of hot-plate burner will not "light back" in any circumstances, while the ovens are thermostatically controlled to simplify cooking operations. The new gas fire does not project into the hearth and create dust-traps beneath the burners; it is built in flush and solid with the fireplace. The new cooker has no awkward corners or projecting taps; no cornices and bars which rust and tarnish at the slightest splash; it is as "streamlined" as the latest railway trains and shuts up into a neat square cabinet when not in use.

Nor has the vital question of safety been overlooked in all this development. Indeed, the modern gas appliance is as nearly fool-proof as possible. The health aspect, too, must not be forgotten. For example, the use of a gas fire provides a complete air change in a room several times an hour, while at the same time efficiently fulfilling its function as a heating agent.

Houses being built to-day are equipped with plug-in gas points in every room. This device works on the "bayonet" principle, and the mere insertion of the plug in the socket together with a half-turn automatically turns on the gas. Conversely, the gas must be shut off before the plug can be withdrawn, rendering the escape of gas impossible. To such points can be plugged-in all the many portable appliances which simplify the running of the home—the iron, the portable fire or radiator, the gas kettle, and that boon to the housewife, the gas poker, which dispenses for ever with the need for wood and paper (and patience) in lighting the solid fuel fire.

The latest and, perhaps, most revolutionary development of gas is for refrigeration. This is undoubtedly the most efficient and economical means of refrigerating without a single moving part to wear out or cause disturbing noises. Indeed, it is no exaggeration to claim that one of the modern wonders of the world is "The Flame that Freezes." Thousands of homes to-day are solving their food storage problems with gas refrigerators.

The Inner Man

THE COUNTRY HOSTEL

THE sunny skies and springlike air of last Saturday and Sunday must have made many a city dweller long for a first look of the country, bare as the trees still are and likely to be for weeks to come. All who have a car, small or large, could hurry out of town, and many did. Others, who are not so encumbered, are catered for in a most generous manner by the railways, and tempted away from home by cheap fares and fast trains to all sorts of attractive places far and near. Well-made sandwiches in one's pocket are a consolation on such springlike week-end excursions, but they are not all that one could desire. The pity of it is that they are in many cases a necessity. The fare provided in the majority of our countryside hostelry is, unfortunately, monotonous, when it is not bad, and too dear. There are exceptions, of course, and there is a desire on the part of not a few publicans nowadays to do better than in the past, but there is still a great deal of work in front of the Wine & Food Society before they can congratulate themselves, and be congratulated by a grateful public, upon having achieved one of the chief objects.

The Secretary of the Society, Mr. A. J. A. Symons, in his Report to the last Annual General Meeting of the Society, said:

"We have still failed to capture the confidence of the hotel world. The proportion of our Members which has an active connection with either hotels or restaurants remains astonishingly small. This is partly due to the attitude taken by the official body, the Hotel and Restaurants Association, which since our inception has viewed us with a mixture of suspicion and hostility. Unfortunately, the hotel industry in general, and those who guide the Association in particular, resent criticism in any form, and seem to see in the natural desire of the Members of the Society for better food, better attention, and more reasonably priced wines, an open attack upon their whole foundation. We can only hope that time will show the Hotels and Restaurants Association that the Society is wholly on the side of the conscientious innkeeper, and would, if allowed, be one of the most powerful of all allies in maintaining the standard of the industry which they desire to protect.

"But, although the official directors of the hotel world have maintained so conservative an aloofness from the Society, we can, I think, claim that our influence is already having good effect. Our dinners and functions and our magazine have not only been welcomed by the public and the press, they have induced a new alertness in some sections—the more enterprising sections—of the hotel world. There is better service—not everywhere, but in some places—more imagination in the choice of menus, more trouble in the preparation, than was the case four years ago, before the Society had come into existence. It is perhaps not for us to claim that this is cause and effect, but I think that time will show that it is so, and that our leavening influence will spread very much further and pro-

duce some surprising results during the next few years."

In this connection, it is a matter of satisfaction for all who take an intelligent interest not only in their own food and drink, but in the betterment of catering facilities in this country, that His Majesty should have been graciously pleased to include the name of Sir George Reeves Smith in the last New Year Honours List. Sir George has done more than any other Englishman, during the last fifty years, to bring the luxury hotels of London in particular to a standard of perfection which has been a model and an inspiration for hoteliers not only in England but the whole world over. The honour which has at long last been conferred upon him as Chairman of the Hotels and Restaurants Association of Great Britain is a well-merited reward for intelligent and wholehearted service rendered to the common weal, and we hope that Sir George, who has passed the four-score years age limit without having lost any of his energy and interest in the cause which he has made his during the whole of his life, may enjoy the honour which he has just received for many years to come. But let us hope also that this honour may be an inducement to many others to follow the example set to them by Sir George. It is unfortunately impossible not to deplore the poor standard of catering of our country inns and hotels compared to what Continental innkeepers have to offer. But is it not the fault, to a very great extent, of legislation? For generations past, the law has done its best—or worst—to fence the unfortunate person who made it his or her job to look after the "inner man" of the travelling public, with penal restrictions and all sorts of regulations.

In France, on the contrary, the village innkeeper is, with the parish priest and the *instituteur*, part of the "*tiers-état*" responsible for the running of the community; he is often the Mayor as well as the innkeeper. He is "*quelqu'un*" and proud of the reputation not merely of his inn but of his village, to which the fare that he provides should, and often does, attract visitors from the neighbouring towns, and even, in a number of cases, from overseas. Perhaps more important still, the innkeeper in France brings up his sons and daughters in the highly respected profession which they will follow when death or old age will call him away from his *fourneaux*. Thus there is continuity, there is a tradition built which is all but too rare in England, where the majority of country inns are in the hands of brewers, who appoint, as and when they choose, a manager or manageress without any security of tenure.

However, all is not lost. Legislation, after all, only registers, as best or ill it can, public opinion, and its severe attitude towards licensed persons, as the poor fellows who run the Ritz and the poorest pub of the East End are equally known to the Law, is due to the fact that many people were brought up to shun the public-house, if they were to remain respectable. This absurd notion has at last died out or is fast dying out, and the most respectable, even among titled people, can be seen nowadays any day throwing a pretty dart at the village inn, without shame on their brows or loss of caste.

Books of The Day

HITLER'S RISE TO POWER

A FRIEND who has ceased to be a friend is not perhaps a very safe guide for the study of the character and career of any man. And when that man happens to be Herr Hitler, who has the faculty of arousing the most intense emotions of admiration or dislike in those who have been in close contact with him, one must be particularly chary about accepting without reservation the views and accounts of a *quondam* friend and associate who has suffered something more than mere disillusionment at his hands.

Mr. Kurt Ludecke in writing his story of his former association with Herr Hitler ("I Knew Hitler," Jarrolds, illustrated, 10s. 6d.) meets this natural objection half way. "I do not claim," he says, "entire neutrality in thought, which is impossible, nor do I pretend to be free of contradictions. Only a fool does not let his judgment guide him as it will. . . . The writing of this story, in language not my own, has condemned me to relive my life for two long years—an agony which often filled me with despair. Though moods of maudlin self-pity, sharp self-criticism or cynical contempt of all accepted values made it difficult sometimes to remain within the boundaries of commonsense and maintain the right proportions,

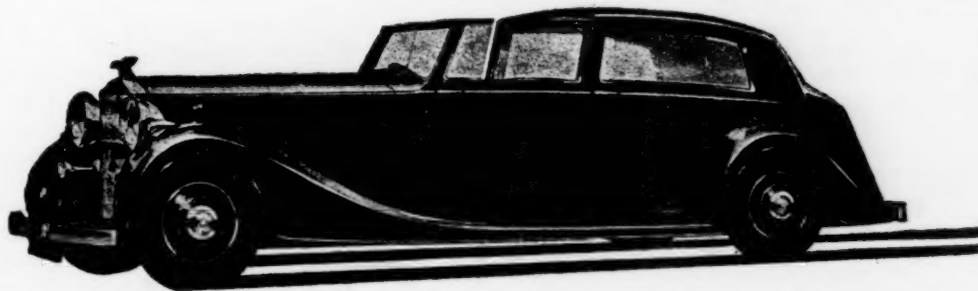
I have made an earnest effort throughout to be honest."

One can believe in this honest intention all the more readily because the author, while critical of Hitler, does not deny the greatness of his achievements and is at the same time exceedingly frank about himself. He tells us that in his youth he had been found to be "too intractable, too rebellious against authority, too emotional and full of life," and when he had his first term of service in the Army before the war his disposition to disobey orders and break rules soon got him into hot water. When the war came, he saw nothing of it owing partly to ill-luck and partly also once more to his genius for creating trouble for himself. After being treated as a spy and sent for a time to a mental hospital, he became a military clerk and received his discharge from the Army in the late autumn of 1916. All that the war did for him was to introduce him to the friendship of a Heidelberg Professor who taught him his Nordic philosophy and helped to make him a passionate champion of Anti-Semitism. After the war the spread of Marxian Socialism throughout Germany and the presence of Jews in high Government posts and in control of banks and of every form of business disgusted him, he tells us, with his own native land, and he went first to Reval and then to America, making money and investing it wisely. Then in 1921 he returned to Germany and a year later, after listening to two speeches by Hitler, he was introduced to him and then had a four-hour interview with him. He was captivated by Hitler's

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"clear, straightforward, domineering bright blue eyes," in which "the whole man was concentrated," and at the end of the interview "I had given him my soul."

His first important work for Hitler was to go and visit Mussolini and study and report on the Duce's methods. The report he brought back appears to have impressed Hitler, and there was one item in it which has peculiar interest to-day in view of what may be regarded as the beginnings of Hitler's "Push South." Asked about the Germans in the Italian Tyrol, Mussolini is represented as saying curtly: "No discussion about that—ever." While Ludecke had at this stage a tremendous admiration for Hitler, he could still discern a good many spots in his glorious sun. He tried, but without any success, to make him a little less careless about his dress and habits. Hitler took not the slightest notice of his efforts to improve him.

He clung to his shapeless trench coat and clumsy shoes. His hair still fell over his eyes at every vehement gesture during his speeches. He continued to eat in a hurry—while he ran from place to place. If you succeeded in making him stand still long enough to confer on important matters, he would take out of his pocket a piece of greasy sausage and bread and bolt them while he talked.

Hitler himself would appear from the first to have been rather puzzled by this over-zealous lieutenant of his. At any rate he is quoted as saying to Ludecke, "*Sie sind zu feudal*" ("You are too much of a swell"). It was after the "Beer Hall Putsch" and Hitler's imprisonment that the seeds of disagreement between Hitler and Ludecke appear to have been sown. Ludecke (and also

Roehm, according to his story) strongly disapproved of Hitler's tactics in using the Parliamentary weapon and in allying himself with Hindenburg and the Conservatives. Ludecke did not want any compromise and, in a lengthy discussion with Hitler, urged him to more revolutionary methods and an alliance with Russia. The two chapters that deal with this discussion contain some highly interesting statements put into the mouth of Hitler. If we are to believe these statements, Hitler merely adopted the Bolshevik bogey for the purpose of frightening Capitalism. Then we have declarations like this:

Don't you see that I need the old cab-horse (Hindenburg)? His prestige is still priceless—a fabulous reputation that must be exploited.

If England opposes a greater Germany at all costs, all right. I still think Mussolini might be interested in making Germany so strong that we could force John Bull to his knees. And it will be easier to overthrow Moscow and take the Ukraine if the Capitalists are on my side. . . .

The primary thing is to get rid of Versailles and rearm—socialism must come in the second line. If it's going to take bombs to show these gentlemen in London, Paris and New York that I mean business, well, they can have them. . . . Don't be afraid, I'll go the limit when the time comes, but not before. . . .

If you visualise a greater Germany side by side with Russia, I tell you I can see a German Reich stretching from the North Sea to the Urals, but without a Stalin.

Hitler after this interview still remained very friendly to Ludecke and the latter was sent as Hitler's envoy to Washington to establish and conduct a Nationalist Socialist Press Bureau there. On his return to Germany he incurred the enmity of important personages in the party, and was arrested by Goering. Hitler ordered his release, but apparently did not appreciate Ludecke's endeavours to prove the injustice of the treatment accorded to him. Possibly Ludecke was too much of a rebel, too outspoken in his criticisms of Nazi policy and methods to suit Hitler's tastes. What happened was that Ludecke soon found himself to be Hitler's prisoner in a concentration camp. From this he eventually escaped—to write this book. As the inside story of Hitler's rise to power there is much in it that is obviously authentic and, if here and there one may suspect the accuracy of the narrative when the author allows his flair for dramatic writing full scope, one must be grateful to him for his many vivid pen pictures of the leaders of the Nazi movement.

LITERARY PORTRAITS

Bidden by an American editor to provide him with a series of live literary portraits out of his past memories, Mr. Ford Madox Ford proceeded to carry out the assignment in his own way. He determined to present his literary characters "pretty much as you see the characters in a novel" or "as if one should see the frequenters of the Mermaid Tavern in an historical romance." The result of his experiment is now gathered into a book entitled "Mightier than the Sword: Memories and Criticisms" (Allen & Unwin, 10s. 6d.); and extraordinarily delightful reading it makes. The memories concern Henry James, Conrad, Hardy, Wells, Crane, D. H. Lawrence, Galsworthy, Turgenev, Hudson, Dreiser and Swinburne; there is much about characteristic atti-

A new murder book by

WARNER ALLEN

Times Literary Supplement: "The name of the author will at once tell the reader what to expect—in short, a book full of wit, rich in incidents and ingenious in design."

"Mr. Warner Allen has chosen for his background the home and political life of Roger d'Arblay, bitter opponent of the French premier, Allard. Public and private intrigues lead to a series of tragedies."

"A brilliant chapter on the trial of Madame d'Arblay for the murder of Allard deserves special mention, as a model for those who should ever attempt the dangerous feat of balancing on a rope stretched between accurate observation and planned exaggeration, without falling into the net of caricature."

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"DEATH FUNGUS"

Constable

tudes and gestures with comic episodes to illustrate them; there is also critical and discriminating comment and occasional satire touched with real affection. Mr. Ford gives us some unforgettable pictures: those for instance, of Swinburne being carried upstairs by a cabman and a housemaid to repose for a time in a bath, of the modern Mermaid Tavern in session or of D. H. Lawrence suddenly appearing in the editorial den. Of all the essays some may like that on Conrad the best; it is sympathetically discerning on the subject both of Conrad's character and art. Mr. Ford picks out the last paragraph of "Heart of Darkness" as "one of the most perfect passages of prose in the language." Its perfection, he tells us, was attained after a prolonged three days' argument over its wording and punctuation between Conrad and himself. The passage runs:

"We have lost the first of the ebb," said the Director suddenly. I raised my head. The offing was barred by a black bank of clouds, and the tranquil waterway, leading to the uttermost ends of the earth, flowed sombre under an overcast sky—seemed to lead into the heart of an immense darkness.

TRIAL OF BRUNO HAUPTMANN

Newspaper cabled accounts of the trial in New Jersey of Bruno Richard Hauptmann for the abduction and murder of the infant son of Colonel and Mrs. Lindbergh were necessarily incomplete in many important particulars and the agitation that followed Hauptmann's conviction imported features into the case that by no means helped to clarify the main issue so far as the public in this country was concerned. For this reason one may welcome a book giving us a full and detailed story of the crime, of the detective methods employed in tracing the criminal and of the trial that followed ("The Trial of Bruno Richard Hauptmann," edited with a History of the Case by Sidney B. Whipple, Heinemann, 10s. 6d.). This book tells us how the ransom notes were traced to Hauptmann and how previous to his arrest an expert on woods had identified the greater part of the ladder used for abducting the child as forming part of a parcel of timber sold to Hauptmann's employer, from whom Hauptmann had purchased similar wood at the time. After Hauptmann's arrest the same expert identified the remainder of the ladder as having been taken from the floor of the attic in Hauptmann's house. The defence relied on a number of allegations, as to which it could offer no proof, against the Lindbergh household and contended, again without any proof, that the ransom notes had been left in Hauptmann's house by a man named Fisch who had died on a voyage to Europe. Mr. Whipple has no doubt as to Hauptmann's guilt and readers of his book must share his conclusion that Hauptmann was justly executed for a truly abominable and heartless crime.

THE HUMAN BODY

Medical books have little appeal as a rule to the average layman because of the technical and often forbidding language in which they are couched. But Dr. Logan Clendening has the art of being able to discourse on the anatomy, physiology and diseases of the human body so simply and yet so

entertainingly that one is not surprised that his book "The Human Body" (Heinemann, with numerous illustrations from photographs, old prints, diagrams and drawings, 12s. 6d.) has merited the distinction of a third edition. The author has a light and easy style, a rich store of knowledge and experience to draw upon and a very keen sense of humour with which to enliven his pages; and his readers will have every reason to rejoice that while he has felt compelled to recast the greater part of his book, he has "left in the jokes."

His humour is associated with much sound reasoning and a sturdy strain of commonsense. He has no truck with faddists of any kind; for instance, those who would attribute the presence of high blood pressure solely to such causes as meat diet, alcohol or tobacco. The last, he says, does constrict arteries, temporarily and functionally; but "it just so happens that there are plenty of people who have never used tobacco who have enormously high blood pressure." As to alcohol, its effects in this direction are to be discounted, since too many people with high blood pressure have been found to have been teetotallers all their lives. And that meat is not the cause of high blood pressure is proved by the fact that a vast number of vegetarians also suffer from it and that meat-eating races like the Eskimos "have been reported to have no higher incidence of the condition than Europeans on a mixed diet." His own experience leads him to think that heredity plays a large part in this as in other maladies. This leads him to consider whether anything can be done to escape undesirable hereditary tendencies. The answer is yes, if it were possible to exclude the element of love in the making of marriages. But—

Men are not going to embrace eugenics. They are going to embrace the first likely, trim-figured girl with limpid eyes and flashing teeth who comes along, in spite of the fact that her germ plasm is probably reeking with hypertension, cancer, hæmophilia, colour-blindness, hay fever, epilepsy and a myotrophic lateral sclerosis. This represents a deep piece of sardony on the part of nature: I do not believe she ever intended man to become a long-lived race. . . .

After indulging in these and other general observations, the author invites his reader to contemplate the body as, first, an organism for the conversion of food and air into energy and tissue and then as an organism for the reproduction of its kind. Finally he deals thoroughly and exhaustively with the question of disease.

ENGLISH CIVIL LAW DIGEST

The legal profession will welcome a new and revised edition—the third—of that very valuable work "A Digest of English Civil Law" (in two volumes, 70s., Thornton Butterworth). This work is the joint production of Dr. Edward Jenks, the editor, the late Professor W. M. Geldart, Professor R. W. Lee, Sir William Holdsworth, Sir John Miles and Mr. William Latey, assisted by Messrs. Ellice Hearn, A. S. Orr and H. G. Hanbury. The new edition, owing to important legislative enactments, has required extensive revision, especially in those sections (Books III, IV and V) dealing with Property, Family Law and the Law of Succession on Death. Under Family Law, for example, account had to be taken of the provisions

of the Matrimonial Causes Act, of 1937. The efforts of the editor and authors to bring the publication thoroughly up-to-date may be judged by the importance they have attached to making such additions from statutes and legal decisions of the year 1937 as seemed to be necessary while the work was in process of being prepared for the press. The distinguished authorship of the Digest and the meticulous care taken in its revision are in themselves a guarantee that the belief expressed by the editor that the work is "a permanent addition to English legal literature" is well founded.

NEEDLEWORK

The Needlework Exhibition Society, which hopes to hold its next show in next February, is offering prizes to its members for the best cushion, bedspread, and sampler; non-members may send work to the exhibition, but are not eligible for prizes. It is time, therefore, to start preparing, for good work takes time, and the standard is always very high at these shows.

"Traditional Embroidery," by Penelope, published by Briggs of Manchester, is full of coloured illustrations; these are either copies of, or adaptations from, existing historical pieces. It is a lovely book to possess and one that no serious student of Jacobean and Tudor needlework should be without. Careful instructions are given as to the colours and stitches to be used.

"The Sampler Book of Decorative Needlework," by Louisa Judd-Morris (Dryad Press, 3s. 6d.) is another useful book on quite a different line. It deals entirely with designs and stitches for working on samplers, or borders for collars and cuffs, towels or table mats, etc. It is a handy size, fully illustrated and most helpful. A leaflet, published by the same firm, called "A Plea for Freedom" (6d.), deals with unhampered "sketching" with the needle by children, which would be an asset in the nursery or kindergarten school.

The latest number of "The Embroideress" (James Pearsall & Co.) has an interesting article on early Swedish embroidery. It also contains several new ideas for practical work requiring varying degrees of skill. This magazine should be in every house that contains anyone who loves a needle.

Fortnightly exhibitions of needlework are held at 74, Grosvenor-street, W.1, the first two weeks of each month till June, by the Embroiderers' Guild.

NEW NOVELS

Mrs. Eileen Bigland, who has Russian blood in her veins and who recently gave us a charmingly gay book entitled "A Laughing Odyssey," about a visit to Soviet Russia, has a good deal about Russia and Russians in her latest novel "This Narrow World" (Hodder & Stoughton). The heroine, whose father traced his descent from Irish kings and Russian Princes and whose mother was a Scotswoman, owed her quixotic passionate temperament and her restlessness of spirit to her "mixed" blood. That is why she found Scotland "so narrow." But her Russian cousin knew her better than she knew herself.

"Underneath, you know, you are a woman who is happiest in a small, secluded place, always provided you have somebody who loves you. I never met a woman who needed love so much." In the end she found the happiness which was at first denied her, through the "eyes of faith" that enabled her to "look clearly upon her pattern for living." It is an excellent story, distinguished for its clever characterisation.

For a first novel, Mr. Richard Ullmann's book "The Property of a Gentleman" (Faber & Faber, 8s. 6d.) has decided merits. It is the story of a father's dominant and malign influence on a son that results in the break-up of a marriage. Then the father dies and the son plans to have a son without the formality of marriage and bring up his child by his own father's methods. The child turns out to be a daughter who grows up into a decadent woman and finally the disillusioned and disappointed man re-unites with his divorced wife. The best-drawn characters in the book are the father and the divorced wife and the story is easy to read because of the admirable style in which it is written.

Mrs. Elspeth Huxley has once again chosen an East African setting for her new murder mystery—"Murder on Safara" (Methuen). Once more, too, her readers have the pleasure of meeting Superintendent Vachell, of the Chania C.I.D. Big game play their part in the drama and the Kenya scene affords Mrs. Huxley plenty of scope for tangling her clues and for her undoubted gifts for descriptive writing. An unusually interesting crime story.

Perhaps some day Scotland Yard will have its counterpart to Mr. Nigel Morland's Palmyra Pym, Deputy Assistant Commissioner—and perhaps not. Anyway, this unconventional, middle-aged, tough guy of a female sleuth is a sheer joy to Mr. Morland's readers and they will find she has lost none of her genius and vigour in tracking down crime in her latest appearance—"The Case Without a Clue" (Cassell). That, by the way, is an intriguing title and the author does full justice to it by the crime mystery he weaves.

In "Truth Comes Limping" (Hodder and Stoughton) Mr. J. J. Connington sees to it that the "limping" does impede the emergence of truth till the right moment for the final disclosures. And he provides an exciting climax to his murder mystery. The solving of the puzzle (set out with Mr. Connington's usual skill) is in the very capable hands of the Chief Constable, our old friend Sir Clinton Driffield, with Squire Wendover in tow to act as his bewildered Watson; and that, of course, is as it should be in a Connington story.

Another Gilmartin story by Mr. Charles Barry is certain of a warm welcome by those who are acquainted with the exploits of his famous ex-Scotland Yard sleuth. The ex-Superintendent reappears in "A Case Dead and Buried" (Hurst & Blackett), wherein a young and very popular West Country landowner is arrested and brought up for extradition to the United States on a charge that he has committed a murder. It is an ingeniously plotted story worthy both of Mr. Barry and his sleuth.

Round the Empire

INDIAN FEDERATION

THAT British India is a little sceptical at the moment regarding the welcome likely to be accorded by the Indian Princes to the newly drafted Instrument of Accession may be judged by the fact that suggestions were put forward in the Central Legislative Assembly last month—half satirically and half earnestly—that Government should make use of the services of a good astrologer for fixing an auspicious date for the submission of the new draft to the Rulers of the States. The Congress Executive appears to have been taking up lately, for reasons of its own which are a trifle obscure, a studiously careful attitude towards the Indian Princes. At any rate, the Working Committee, in its session at Wardha, declined to countenance the establishment of Congress Committees in the States. The resolution, which recorded this decision, assured the subjects of Indian States of Congress sympathy, but went on to say: "In view of the different conditions prevailing in the States and the rest of India, the general policy of the Congress is often unsuited to the States and may result in preventing or hampering the natural growth of the freedom movement in the States. Such movements are likely to develop more rapidly and to have a broader basis, if they draw their strength from the people of the States, produce self-reliance in them and are in tune with the conditions prevailing there and do not rely on extraneous help and assistance or on the prestige of the Congress name. The Congress welcomes such movements but, in the nature of things and under the present conditions, the burden of carrying on the struggle for freedom must fall on the people of the States. The Congress will always extend its goodwill and support to such struggles carried on in a peaceful and legitimate manner, but the organisation's help will inevitably be, under the existing conditions, moral support and sympathy. Individual Congressmen, however, will be free to render further assistance in their personal capacities. In this way the struggle can develop without committing the Congress organisation, and thus be unhindered by external considerations."

On the subject of Federation the Working Committee professed itself not opposed to the idea of Federation, but placed on record its view that "a real Federation must, even apart from the question of responsibility, consist of free units enjoying more or less the same measure of freedom and civil liberty and representation by democratic process of election. Indian States participating in the Federation should approximate to the provinces in the establishment of representative institutions, responsible Government, civil liberties and the method of election to the Federal House. Otherwise, Federation, as it is now contemplated, will, instead of building Indian unity, encourage separatist tendencies and involve the State in internal and external conflict. The Congress, therefore, reiterates its condemnation of the pro-

posed scheme and calls upon provincial and local Congress committees and the people generally, as well as provincial Governments and Ministries, to prevent its inauguration. In the event of an attempt being made to impose it, despite the declared will of the people, such an attempt must be combated in every way and the provincial Governments and Ministries must refuse to co-operate with it. In case such a contingency arises, the All-India Congress Committee is authorised and directed to determine the line of action to be pursued in this regard."

Sir C. P. Ramaswami Iyer, Dewan of Travancore State, in addressing the Travancore Legislative Assembly recently, pointed out one of the difficulties that Federation involves for the more progressive Rulers of Indian States. "Legally it is not possible for the Ruler," said the Dewan, "without the concurrence of the British Government, to divest himself of his undivided authority and jurisdiction over the governance of the State in favour of any other authority. . . . It is not, in the present circumstances, open to the Ruler to grant full responsible government. You can only pretend to do so, but it may not be in the real sense." Under the scheme of Federation and under the Government of India Act, 1935, the Ruler of an Indian State, the Dewan pointed out, was the person who was alone personally responsible to the British Government. If responsible government came into being then the question arose with whom would treaty obligations be enforced? If conferment of responsible government came, then a new contract would have to be drawn up. It was possible, said the Dewan, that the Paramount Power would reconcile itself with the new situation; it was possible that it would provide half-way houses. "But whether there are possibilities such as these or not," concluded the Dewan, "so long as it is difficult for the Maharaja to discharge his obligations in relation to treaties with the Paramount Power, it is not possible to grant responsible government. With the obligations, which confront the Ruler of Travancore, it is not open to the Travancore Government to grant responsible government in the real sense of the term."

AUSTRALIANS AS INVENTORS

Australia has a remarkable record of invention. This claim was put forward recently by Mr. F. P. Kneeshaw, president of the Australian Institute of Engineers, and is supported by the *Sydney Bulletin*, which proceeds to give specific instances. The shearing machine, it says, was the invention that did most for Australia. Its early development found scope for a young man who has since become the father of the "baby" motor car—Lord Austin, whose early engineering career was begun in Victoria. Australian strippers and harvesters have revolutionised the world's grain industry, and the stump-jump plough has put millions of acres of land into cultivation which otherwise would have remained under pasture or worthless timber. The Michell thrust-bearing, invented in Melbourne, made possible the world's biggest battleship—H.M.S. *Hood*. The experiments of Hargrave made flying possible, as the Wright

brothers acknowledged. The slotted wing was the invention of an Australian—one Wragge. The frozen-meat trade had its genesis in Harrison's pioneer factory at Geelong—the first in the world to make ice. Julius, inventor of the totalisator, is Australian, and son of an archbishop. The tracer bullet claims Australia as its native land. The multiplex telegram printer-recorder owned one Murray, an employee of the *S.M. Herald*, as father in an earlier day. Persian roads of modern days owe something to the Australian fire-plough.

"There is, in short, not a corner of the world in which the inhabitants do not owe something to Australian scientific curiosity. Only the other day it was recorded in the Canadian press that the Eskimos had abandoned their ancient methods of keeping themselves in their clothes in favour of the zip fastener, which Mr. Kneeshaw declares also claims the Commonwealth as its native land. Yet Australians so little honour their inventors that probably, if Mr. Kneeshaw were to serve a questionnaire on all his adult compatriots, male and female, scarcely any of them could name the benefactor who relieved them of the need of buttoning themselves up."

CANADA'S EMPLOYED

Industrial employment in Canada, as reported by leading employers, was unusually active in 1937, reaching a level only surpassed by that of the boom year of 1929. The index of employment for 1937, based on the 1926 average as 100, averaged 114.1, an increase of ten per cent. over 1936, which was a larger gain regarded than in any consecutive years, with the exception of that reported in 1934 over 1933, which was the first upswing after the depth of the depression years had been reached. In the seventeen years during which records of employment have been kept in Canada, the 1937 average index was only exceeded by that of 119 in 1929.

Manufacturing, employing rather more than half of the total workers included in these totals, experienced during 1937 a lengthy period of uninterrupted expansion. All branches of factory employment contributed in a greater or lesser degree to the recovery which resulted in a higher level of industrial activity than in any other year since 1929. Mining and lumbering showed higher records of employment than in any of the 17 years recorded, reflecting the increased activities in these particular industries.

CANADIAN CATTLE FOR BRITAIN

Arrangements have, it is understood, been made whereby there will be a continuous supply of Canadian store cattle for the British market for at least the next three or four months. Between four and five hundred head will be landed at Birkenhead each week and consignments will also be discharged at Glasgow and Cardiff. The supply, for which at the moment there is a considerable demand, has been made possible not only by some extra shipping facilities being available, but also by the fact that the demand from the United States for Canadian cattle is not now absorbing, as in the past, a large part of the export surplus. The

initial consignments have included light, medium and heavy weights, and they have been cleared quickly at good prices. They are splendid beef type cattle suitable for "short keep" or longer, depending upon the requirements of the market to which they will be sent. Canadian cattle are well known for their splendid health and for their ability to put on weight under British conditions of feeding either in the yards or on the pastures. The Canadian High Commissioner's office have advance information concerning every shipment.

ENCOURAGING THE TOURIST

One way of encouraging tourist traffic is obviously to hold a Convention. It is notable, at all events, that there were 107 of them in Winnipeg, Manitoba, last year, with 800 registrations, and, as Conventions usually last for a not inconsiderable time, it is safe to assume that a fair part of Winnipeg's tourist revenue last year of £500,000 was due to the delegates—although the Conventions were not, of course, deliberately designed to attract visitors.

Still more potent an attraction, however, was Manitoba's famous Riding Mountain Park, one of the most beautiful in Canada, and one which is rapidly growing in popularity. In a setting that provides sharp contrast to the surrounding Prairie regions, the Park is situated in the high and heavily-timbered summit of the Manitoba escarpment, more than 2,200 feet above sea level. Luxuriant forests, set with exquisitely clear lakes, cover the great expanse of the park, and within its boundaries, which encompass 1,148 square miles, roam elk, deer and moose; wild fowl and beaver build their homes along its waterways; and a small herd of buffalo, descendants of those which once thundered over the prairies, feed on the rich grasses of the uplands. The park lies within one of the main routes followed by migratory birds to and from their nesting grounds in northern Canada, and bird life is abundant and varied. The charms of the Park are not, however, entirely natural, for, in addition to the bathing, swimming, fishing, riding, motoring, and other open-air sports, recreational areas have been set aside for baseball and children's playgrounds, while a cinema and a dance pavilion have made discreet entries. Last year over 115,000 visitors entered the Park.

HOME MAKING

Canada still believes that the home is the centre of national life, and spares no efforts from the putting down of building standards to the availability of cheap electric power to make the hearth homely and the domestic atmosphere congenial. Another small but significant sight of this disposition is to be found in the holding of Home-makers' Courses, established this spring by the Government of New Brunswick. Conducted by the Department of Agriculture in conjunction with the Federal Department of Labour, the courses are open to young women between the ages of eighteen and thirty. They offer practical training in cooking and menu planning, elementary sewing

and dressmaking, weaving, home nursing, knitting, crocheting and embroidery.

CANADIAN TOBACCO

If the rapid growth of an industry is any indication of its development then tobacco growing on Canadian farms is in a very healthy condition. In 1937 there was a total of 65,000 acres devoted to this crop in Canada as compared with 55,000 acres in 1936. Going back a little further, the acreage reported in 1920 was 36,891. Last year's production ran to 71,000,000 lbs. and was of excellent quality. The United Kingdom continues to be the principal export outlet for Canadian leaf, although the trade with British Colonies, particularly West Africa and the West Indies, is reaching significant proportions.

UNION'S UNDERFED NATIVES

Dr. E. H. Cluver, Deputy-Chief Health Officer of the Union, giving evidence before the Native Labour Committee, spoke of the serious deterioration of the health of the native population, which he ascribed to their defective dietary. He asserted that at least three-quarters of the total population were not in a position to obtain a sufficiency of protective foods, such as milk, meat, fruit and vegetables to maintain themselves in reasonable health, and that the country did not produce enough milk and meat for the needs of the population.

He admitted that a complete survey had not been made, but numerous district surveys and investigations in the native territories and country districts showed a definite and marked deterioration in the health of the natives. The general deterioration of health and the increased incidence of tuberculosis in particular were due to the shortage of protective foods. The natives were eating mealie-meal more and more, to the exclusion of anything else, and the lower standard of health was directly affected by the quality of the food consumed. The mealie was a very good food, but it was essential to have it supplemented by a minimum amount of protective foods. Fifteen years ago district surgeons and health officers in the native territories and country areas hardly ever mentioned malnutrition and tuberculosis, but to-day their reports mentioned an increase year by year in the incidence of tuberculosis. The same tendency appeared on the mines, where the percentage of recruits rejected as physically unfit was also on the increase. And those natives that were passed could not go to work immediately; otherwise they would break down. They had to be fed up for a couple of weeks on foods containing vitamins and protein. In the Transkei and Ciskei and other native areas a great deal of the disease that existed went unnoticed, and it was a question of the survival of those who were able to exist on the least amount of proteins and vitamins.

SOUTHERN RHODESIA'S NAVY

The Southern Rhodesian Navy is such a silent service that even the people of the Colony, who pay for it, know little or nothing about it. It is

so "hush-hush" that its two naval bases, Katsanya and Feira, are not marked on ordinary maps. The flagship, H.M.S. *Harari*, is 40 feet long and the fastest craft on the Zambezi river. She is the only powered craft that can travel from the sea up to the Kabarabasa Rapids at all seasons of the year, for she draws only 14 inches of water, at top speed, though she can carry 100 passengers besides her crew.

The Southern Rhodesian navy is a busy and a useful service. It is always on the look out for pirates and hippos. Its duty is to facilitate the passage across the two miles wide Zambezi of natives travelling between the two Rhodesias and Portuguese East Africa. Before its advent, northern natives, chiefly those returning with money in their pockets from work in Southern Rhodesia, used to experience difficulties and dangers, natural and man-made. The ferry, where the three countries meet, was a place of ill repute. In 1925 fifteen natives were drowned in one accident and others were murdered by native brigands on the Portuguese border—at least, that is the suspected cause of certain mysterious disappearances. All this has ceased since the fifteen free Government ferry boats, under the care of the *Harari* and *Feira*, took over their duties in the remote Zambezi valley. The little *Feira*, only 20 feet long, can navigate from Chikoa to within 100 miles of the Victoria Falls—a distance of over 500 miles; or she can go up the Luangwa river, a great northern tributary of the Zambezi, to fetch grain to feed the passengers at the ferries—where the Government has free food depots.

Sometimes, by night, the Rhodesian navy camps on a sand-bank in mid-stream, safe from lions and other troubles. Sometimes the "Admiral" (the only European navigator in the fleet) fills his larder by shooting game that swarms upon the banks of the river. The principal danger is submarines—or hippos. If one of these creatures comes suddenly up under a canoe or small launch the crew is apt to be knocked overboard. But such accidents are rare in these days, for relations between the Southern Rhodesian Navy and these sportive water-horses are as friendly as with other foreign Powers.

AMALGAMATION OF THE RHODESIAS

At a recent meeting held by the residents of Broken Hill, in Northern Rhodesia, a resolution was passed unanimously in favour of the Amalgamation of Northern and Southern Rhodesia, affirming that "in its opinion it is in the best interests of both Territories that amalgamation should immediately be effected"; and that "a Committee be appointed to represent the electors of Broken Hill before the Royal Commission." The resolution went on to say that the new and enlarged Rhodesia should be ruled by "a Government similar in form to that now in existence in Southern Rhodesia." The resolution is of importance in view of the imminent departure from this country of the Royal Commission which, under Lord Bledisloe, will consider the possibility of closer co-operation between the Rhodesias and Nyasaland.

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MARKETS AND SENTIMENT

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